

Vikas Cellular Ltd.  
 Vikas Telecom Limited  
 Vindhya Telelinks Ltd.  
 Vintek RF Products Pvt. Ltd.  
 Vintron Industries Ltd.  
 Vistra Telecommunication Pvt. Ltd.  
 Voice Information Systems (India) Ltd.  
 VS Dempo & Co. Ltd.  
 VXL Engineers Ltd.  
 VXL India Ltd.  
 W.S. Telesystems Ltd.  
 Wandel & Goltermann  
 Wbcide Ltd.  
 Webel Communication Ltd.  
 Webel Electronic Communications Systems Ltd.  
 Webel Mediatronics Ltd.  
 Webel Telecommunication Industries Ltd.  
 Webel Telematics Ltd.  
 Weston Pagers Private Ltd.  
 Wide Fax (I) Ltd.  
 Wipro Infotech Ltd.  
 Wipro Ltd.  
 World Phone India Pvt. Ltd.  
 Worldwide Technologies (Elec) Pvt. Ltd.  
 WS Telesystems Ltd.  
 XEDD Telecom Ltd.  
 XL Telecom Pvt. Ltd.  
 ZEDD Telecom Ltd.  
 Zimag India Ltd (PSEDC).

[English]

#### **Insufficient Funds**

2952. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :  
 DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have not provided sufficient funds in the budget due to pressure from International Monetary Fund which has impressed upon the Government to leave Tourism to Private sector;

(b) if so, whether the Government have opposed this move on the plea that the annual growth rate of 17.6% was enough to show that Tourism Industry is not at loss making;

(c) whether his Ministry fetched Rs. 9186 crores of foreign exchange with a paltry budget outlay of Rs. 119.14 crore in 1995-95;

(d) if so, whether instead of raising the figure of 1995-96 the Ministry has allocated Rs. 109 crores in 1996-97 budget;

(e) whether the Government have not provided sufficient funds for 1997-98 budget; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b) No Sir, Does not arise.

(c) Rs. 9185.88 crores was the foreign exchange earnings during 1995-96 on a budget outlay of Rs. 92.00 crores.

(d) The Budget allocation is Rs. 90 crores for 1996-97.

(e) and (f) The Planning Commission has allocated Rs. 110.35 crores for 1997-98 to the Department of Tourism.

#### **Central Manpower Export Promotion Council**

2953. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up Central Manpower Export Promotion Council;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with its objectives;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay; and

(d) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d) A proposal to set up a Central Manpower Export Promotion Council to render promotional and advisory services is under examination of Government. Question of setting a time schedule for this purpose will arise only if a decision to set up the proposed council is taken dependent upon other concerned Ministries/Departments of Government agreeing to it.

#### **Judicial Inquiry into Deaths in HINDALCO**

2954. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that P.U.D.R. (Peoples' Union for Democratic Rights) had demanded a judicial inquiry into the deaths of labourers in HINDALCO Renukut of Hindustan Aluminium Co. of U.P.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether out of twenty two thousand workers/labourers of the above firm, 16,000 are contract and shift workers who are low paid or under paid as compared to the type of work/job; and

(d) the steps being proposed by the Government to improve the situation of these workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

#### Development of Railways

2955. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :  
SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any new scheme for the development of Railways and to provide more facilities to the passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which this scheme is likely to be implemented; and

(d) the number of passengers likely to be benefited under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) Development of Railway stations to provide more facilities to the passengers is a continuous process. Facilities at stations are upgraded depending on the growth and requirement of passenger traffic handled at that station. At present there is no new scheme.

#### Availability of Rail Engines

2956. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are sufficient rail engines in the country which are in good condition;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the new electric engines are being used in place of old coal engines;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of coal engines replaced by the electric engines so far during this year along with the number of new engines built during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As on 1.4.96, there were 2387 electric locos, 4313 diesel locos & 209 steam locos on Indian Railways.

(c) and (d) The electric engines are used in the sections which are electrified.

(e) No electric loco has replaced steam loco during this year. For 1996-97, 195 electric locos and 150 diesel electric locos have been planned for production/procurement.

#### Sponge Iron Units

2957. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :  
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Tough time ahead for sponge iron units" appearing in 'Tribune' dated December 27, 1996;

(b) if so, whether the manufactures of sponge iron of the country have to face the problem due to the shortage of good quality coal and increase in the price of coal;

(c) if not, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the representatives of the industry have drawn the Government attention to it; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (d) The attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Tough time ahead for sponge iron units" appearing in "Tribune" dated December 27, 1996. Sponge Iron Manufacturers Association have also expressed their concern about inadequate availability of required grades of non coking coal and increase in the price of coal.

(e) To increase the availability of coal, the Coal Mines Nationalisation Act, 1973 has been amended w.e.f. 9.6.1993 to allow development of captive mines by iron & steel manufacturers. This amendment also allows setting up of washeries for washing coal obtained from a mine. Further, the Government have proposed reduction of the basic custom duty on non coking coal from 20% to 10% in the Budget for 1997-98.

[English]

#### Selling of Scrap

2958. SHRI KACHARU BHAI RAUT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of scrap sold by Railways during the current year so far; and

(b) The income earned therefrom?